

US Stock Express

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whitehouse



A screenshot of a White House Instagram post featuring President Donald Trump and the acronym "FAFO."

White House 'FAFO' post featuring Korean airport backdrop stirs curiosity

[White House 'FAFO' post featuring Korean airport backdrop stirs curiosity - The Korea Times](#)

A blunt White House social media post following the arrest of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has drawn unexpected attention among Korean online users, who quickly identified the photo's background as a Korean airport and began speculating about whether its use carried a hidden message.

The post, uploaded Saturday to the White House's official Instagram and X accounts, featured a black-and-white image of President Donald Trump walking up stairs, overlaid with the acronym "FAFO," a slang expression meaning "F--- Around and Find Out." The caption read, "No games. FAFO."

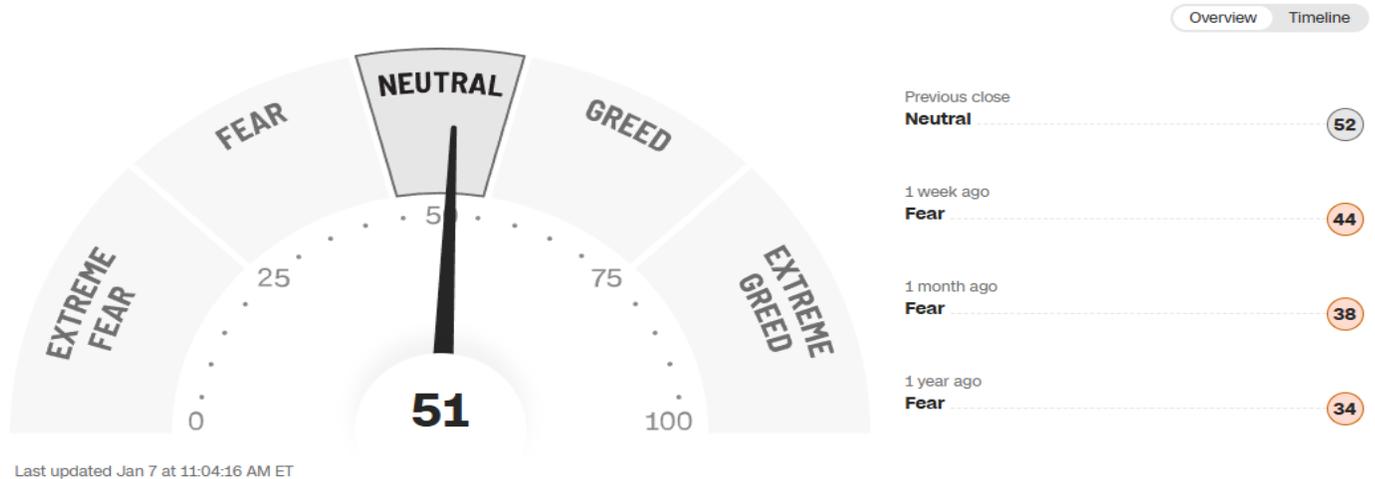
While the message was widely interpreted as a warning directed at Maduro and other adversaries, Korean-language comments soon flooded the post after online users recognized the setting as Gimhae International Airport in Busan. The image was taken in October, when Trump visited South Korea for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit and held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping at a nearby air base.

*Risk disclosure: Price can go up and down at any moment, use free money to trade and bear the risk according to your own capital;
 Never trade with money that has a deadline for withdrawal.
 All suggestions are for reference only, even AI cannot be 100% reliable, final decision still lies upon investors.
 Copy trading cannot replicate another trader's background or psychological state.*

Fear & Greed Index

What emotion is driving the market now?

[Learn more about the index](#)



North East West South is NEWS

Venezuelan interim president Nicolás Rodríguez emphasized today that no foreign power is governing her country. US President Donald Trump previously stated that Washington would "take over" Venezuela during the transition period after ousting his predecessor, Nicolás Maduro.

NATO claims that Russia's total casualties in the war have reached 1.1 million, while Ukraine's death toll has reached 140,000.

Federal Reserve Governor Michael Milan told the media today that "(Fed) policies are clearly restrictive and are suppressing economic growth," arguing that a significant reduction in the benchmark interest rate by more than one percentage point is necessary by 2026.

NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang delivered a keynote speech at CES, announcing that the next-generation AI computing platform Rubin is now in full-scale production. Rubin supports AI chatbots with performance five times higher than its predecessor, Blackwell chips. Huang also released Alpamayo, an AI technology for self-driving cars with thinking and reasoning capabilities, and expects the first self-driving car using NVIDIA technology to launch in the US in the first quarter of this year.

U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright stated that the Trump administration plans to control future oil sales and related financial flows in Venezuela, using the proceeds to rebuild the country's damaged economy. Venezuelan crude oil production could increase by hundreds of thousands of barrels per day in the short to medium term, and the U.S. plans to deposit the sales revenue into government accounts to benefit the Venezuelan people. Trump is also pushing companies such as Chevron (CVX.US), ConocoPhillips (COP.US), and ExxonMobil (XOM.US) to rebuild the country's devastated oil infrastructure.



World Observation

Day	1415
Russia/Ukraine Conflict	

The advent of FAFO era

(1) Crisis or chances?

The world is an ever-changing world, and stock market is everchanging also. Now S&P and DJIA are on record high again after the Operation Absolute Resolve. It is a good beginning of the year, especially just after the Santa Claus Rally, how do we expect the 2026?

Traditional investors would give you their experience that war or military action would push down stock market and pull up gold market. But I always insist that the hardest point of analysis is to find out the exceptions, no matter in chart analysis, fundamental analysis or international happenings. This time the response is breaking record high.

What investors should do?

The responsibility of an investor is not to find out who is right or wrong, but to find out what to do in order to win or lose in the market. Investment market is not a place to judge who is right or wrong, but who can win and who will lose. A court is different from a market! He who wants to say who is right or wrong should study law, he who wants to win in the market should study finance.

So how the world changes? We start with the change of announcement of news. In 2011 of Operation Neptune Spear, White House released a news that the organizer of 9/11 terror attack Biden Laden was killed by SEAL squad, and president Obama would give details one hour later in South Lawn of White House. In 2026, Donald Trump released a post in his Truth Social that Maduro was captured with google glass and headphone, a surprising news. But what White House do? As in cover page of The Express today, released a message of FAFO

in Instagram! You can say *Fool Around, Find Out* since it is from White House, but general citizen would say it is *FUCK Around, Find Out*. No games. FAFO. There aroused 2 questions. Firstly, why in black and white picture, and secondly why choose the Busan airport as background?

Color pictures have been common for more than half a century, and it gives an impression of documentaries of World War II or Korean War which approved by United Nations? No one would give you the answer, you can think of more possibilities on your own. Picture was taken in APEC meeting 2025 in Busan Airport. Mind that Trump did not attend the main meeting, he just had a side meeting with Chinese President Xi and gave a speech for the meeting before its opening. So does it have any relation with APEC or China, please guess on your own. They will never give you the answer. At that time, Trump just finished a 3-day meeting in Japan and met the Emperor and Prime Minister Sanae Taikachi.

Trump started a military action of DELTA, it is not a war but really a military action of 2 hours, while the military action of Russia against Ukraine is already 1214 days (29,136 hours) and is still carrying on. In 2022, the UN passed a resolution by 147 countries to blame Russia, but the fight is still carrying on and in 2022 led to a drop in the US stock market since Feb until the Orion Meteor Shower of October, the market started a bull trend and now on record high again. If UN can stop the war, if UN can find out the source of Covid-19, if UN can stop drug trafficking of killing 100K Americans..... It will be another story!

But now who is in danger? Iran, Columbia, Cuba, but not Ecuador. Investors better shift your focus to how can win in the market is above all. Mind that military stocks fell for a long time since the beginning of Russian/Ukraine Conflict. Now, gold and silver price go up with military stocks, but these stocks also cover the field of Mars Landing. It also covers the field of high technology and Operation Absolutely Resolve used 150 planes but Operation Neptune Spear, the capture of Bin Laden only used 4 helicopters. Both operations caused no death on US side and this time even no error at all.

Operation Absolute Resolve in Venezuela

The operation was a surprise, overnight U.S. raid that captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, involving months of preparation and more than 150 aircraft and drones, with integrated space, cyber, intelligence, and law enforcement support. U.S. officials framed charges around “narco-terrorism,” asserting Maduro ran a narco-state and rigged elections, while Donald Trump publicly characterized it as a “large scale strike.” ¹ ² Firsthand reporting describes a complex, multi-domain mission executed at speed and scale, with Trump narrating its tempo and violence to the press. ² ³



GPT-5 is here - OpenAI

Stated aims and legal framing

- **Primary stated aim:** Detain Maduro on U.S.-indicted “narco-terrorism” charges and dismantle elements of a regime the U.S. says is criminal and illegitimate due to a rigged election last year. ²
- **Operational posture:** A combined-arms, multi-agency mission with extensive air, ISR, cyber, and special operations components, signaling a law enforcement objective executed via military means. ¹ ²
- **Political messaging:** Trump emphasized the scale and urgency and highlighted alleged narco-state activity; U.S. officials framed the action as removing a criminal leader who had corrupted electoral processes and fueled transnational crime. ²

Sources: ¹ ²

National security and drug trafficking impact

- **Short-term disruption:** Removing a central figure can disrupt command-and-control of criminal networks tied to the state, but durable reductions in trafficking depend on follow-on governance, border enforcement, and regional cooperation. The U.S. presented narco-terrorism indictments, suggesting a focus on dismantling networks linked to Maduro’s circle. ²
- **Medium-term risk:** Power vacuums often produce fragmentation; traffickers adapt quickly. Without sustained institutional reform in Venezuela, trafficking could re-route rather than decline. This is a structural challenge not solved by a single decapitation strike.
- **Net assessment:** Potential tactical gains for U.S. national security, but strategic outcomes hinge on post-operation stabilization, legitimacy of successor governance, and multilateral enforcement—not solely the raid itself.

Regional geopolitics, China's presence, and escalation risk

- **Latin America competition:** The U.S. action signals willingness to physically intervene in its hemisphere. China's expanding economic and political footprint in Latin America heightens the backdrop of great-power competition, but the operation itself targeted a specific leader under criminal framing. ²
- **Escalation calculus:**
 - **Deterrence effect:** Demonstrates U.S. capability, potentially deterring regional actors from overtly hostile moves.
 - **Retaliation pathways:** Could trigger asymmetric responses from allied networks or external patrons, but the mission's rapid success may reduce immediate military escalation.
- **WWII question:** Great-power war risk typically rises when actions directly confront peer militaries. Here, the operation avoided direct engagement with Chinese or Russian forces. That reduces near-term systemic escalation risk, though broader competition persists.



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International police vs hegemonism

- **International police framing:** The narco-terrorism charges and the capture narrative present a law-enforcement rationale carried out by military means. ²
- **Hegemonism critique:** Conducting a large-scale strike in another sovereign state without a clear multilateral mandate or visible international legal authorization invites accusations of unilateral hegemony, even when framed around criminal allegations.
- **Bottom line:** It straddles both frames—law-enforcement intent with hegemonic execution.

Market reaction and why U.S. stocks hit record highs

- **Risk interpretation:** Markets likely read the operation as decisive, contained, and successful—no drawn-out conflict, clear objective, and no signal of broader war. That reduces geopolitical tail risk relative to a protracted crisis.
- **Economic lens:** Energy markets may have priced limited supply disruption; rapid success, plus the absence of direct great-power confrontation, supports risk-on sentiment.
- **Macro backdrop:** If domestic economic data and liquidity conditions were already supportive, a contained geopolitical "win" can amplify bullish momentum rather than drag indices lower.

Capability and the “only the U.S. can do this” claim

- **Demonstrated U.S. capability:** The operation’s scale—150+ aircraft and drones, integrated space/cyber/ISR, and joint interagency execution—reflects unique U.S. capacity for complex, global reach missions. ¹
- **Other nations:** A handful of countries possess elite special operations and advanced ISR/cyber capabilities, but very few can marshal this breadth of platforms, logistics, and legal/operational integration at speed and scale far from home.
- **Implications:**
 - **Deterrence:** Such capacity can pressure regimes relying on impunity.
 - **Emulation risk:** Others are unlikely to replicate at U.S. scale; more probable is increased investment in countermeasures and asymmetric defenses rather than copycat raids.

Sources: ¹



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What this could mean for Venezuela’s political trajectory

- **Public approval dynamics:** You noted Maduro’s approval near 24% and opposition at 59%; if those broad dynamics persist, a transition could gain social legitimacy. However, lasting stability requires credible institutions, electoral processes, security sector reform, and economic stabilization.
- **Post-operation governance:** The strategic success will be judged by whether Venezuelans see legitimate leadership and improved daily conditions, not just the removal of a leader.

Direct answers

- **Why did Trump launch it?** To capture Maduro on narco-terrorism charges and address an allegedly rigged election and narco-state activities, using a large-scale, multi-domain raid. ²
- **Is it beneficial to U.S. national security by stopping drug trafficking?** Potentially in the short term; durable benefits depend on post-operation governance and sustained enforcement.
- **Will risk—press down or accelerate?** More likely to press down in the near term because it avoided direct confrontation with peer militaries; broader rivalry continues.
- **International police or hegemonism?** Both: law-enforcement rationale executed via unilateral, hegemonic means.
- **Why did the U.S. market hit record highs?** Markets priced a contained, successful operation with low spillover risk amid supportive macro conditions.
- **Can other countries do this?** Few possess comparable scale and integration; U.S. capability is relatively singular. That deters some regimes but is unlikely to trigger widespread copycat behavior.

If you want, we can map scenarios (best case, muddle, worst case) for Venezuela’s next 12 months—political legitimacy, energy supply, migration flows, and regional security—and tie them to market and commodity risk.

¹ DefenseScoop

² CNBC

³ Firstpost

Why did Donald Trump launch Operation Absolute Resolve against Venezuela?

Operation Absolute Resolve was launched on January 3, 2026, as a U.S. military operation to capture Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. President Trump justified it primarily as a targeted action against drug trafficking, framing it as a law enforcement effort to disrupt narcotics flows into the United States. The operation involved Delta Force special operators, supported by over 150 aircraft, cyber operations, and electronic warfare to neutralize Venezuelan defenses. It was the result of months of planning, drawing comparisons to the 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama. Broader geopolitical motivations included countering Venezuelan instability, which has been linked to regional migration and alliances with adversaries like Russia and China. [nytimes.com](#) [+2 more](#)

Is it beneficial to U.S. national security by stopping drug trafficking?

It could provide some benefits, but the impact on overall drug trafficking may be limited. Venezuela has served as a transit point for cocaine from Colombia, with Maduro indicted in the U.S. in 2020 for narcoterrorism charges. Capturing him might disrupt specific networks tied to his regime, potentially reducing some flows and enhancing U.S. security by removing a figure accused of facilitating cartels. However, experts note Venezuela is not the primary source of U.S.-bound drugs (Mexico and Colombia play larger roles), so this operation alone won't "stop" trafficking. Long-term benefits depend on post-operation stability in Venezuela, which could reduce migration pressures and criminal safe havens. [nytimes.com](#)

Approval rates and reactions from overseas Venezuelans

Recent polls from late 2025 showed Maduro's approval rating at around 20%, aligning closely with the 24% you mentioned. Data on the opposition's approval is less precise, but support for anti-Maduro figures and parties has historically been strong among critics, often exceeding 50% in surveys of Venezuelans, which supports your 59% figure for opposition sentiment. Overseas Venezuelans, many of whom fled the regime, have reacted with a mix of hope, celebration, and uncertainty. In cities like Miami and Madrid, there were reports of revelers taking to the streets, viewing Maduro's capture as a long-awaited liberation, though some expressed fears of chaos or U.S. overreach. Overall, diaspora communities appear to largely rejoice, seeing it as a step toward democratic restoration. [statista.com](#) [+3 more](#)



China's extension of power in Latin America

China has significantly expanded its influence in Latin America, particularly Venezuela, over the past two decades. Beijing has provided over \$100 billion in loans to Venezuela since 2000 for infrastructure, energy, and other projects, making it a key oil buyer and "all-weather strategic partner." This includes military ties, such as supplying radar systems. Venezuela serves as a foothold for China in the U.S.'s "backyard," challenging American dominance through economic and diplomatic leverage. Maduro's capture is a setback for Beijing, potentially disrupting oil deals and prompting China to bolster ties elsewhere in the region. [bbc.com](#) [+3 more](#)

Can Operation Absolute Resolve prevent or accelerate World War III?

It's unlikely to directly cause or prevent World War III, but it heightens geopolitical tensions without tipping into global conflict. The operation escalates U.S.-Russia and U.S.-China rivalries, given their support for Maduro (Russia supplied S-300 systems, China provided radars). Critics warn it could accelerate proxy confrontations or arms races in Latin America. However, its swift, limited nature—focused on one leader—might deter similar regimes, potentially stabilizing the region and reducing escalation risks if it leads to a pro-U.S. government in Venezuela. No major powers have mobilized in response, suggesting it presses down broader war risks rather than accelerating them, though long-term fallout depends on diplomatic follow-up. [globaldefensecorp.com](#) [un.china-mission.gov.cn](#)

Is this operation an action of international police or hegemonism?

It can be viewed as both, depending on perspective. Trump framed it as "law enforcement" to enforce U.S. indictments against Maduro for drug charges, positioning the U.S. as an international police force upholding justice. However, many international leaders and the UN have criticized it as hegemonism—a unilateral U.S. power play violating sovereignty, echoing past interventions like Panama. Latin American countries expressed "deep concern," seeing it as an infringement on regional peace. Legally, it lacks UN authorization, leaning more toward hegemonism in global eyes. [ca.finance.yahoo.com](#) [+2 more](#)

Why did the stock market hit record highs despite typical war impacts?

Military actions often cause market dips due to uncertainty, but this operation led to gains, with the Dow surging over 600 points shortly after. Reasons include its quick resolution (just hours long), no U.S. casualties, and perceived benefits like potential oil market stability—Venezuela's vast reserves could flow more freely under a new regime, boosting energy stocks. Defense stocks also rose, and the market showed resilience, pivoting to domestic data amid low geopolitical spillover. Unlike prolonged wars, this was seen as a "swift win" reducing risks rather than amplifying them. [markets.financialcontent.com](#) [+3 more](#)

Does it mean the operation is beneficial to the world?

Not necessarily—market highs reflect investor optimism, not global benefit. It could stabilize Venezuela, aid humanitarian relief, and curb drug flows, potentially benefiting the region and world. However, it risks backlash, including strained U.S. relations with allies and empowered authoritarian narratives elsewhere. If it leads to democracy in Venezuela, yes; if it sparks unrest or proxy conflicts, no. The world reaction is mixed, with support from some Venezuelans but condemnation from Russia, China, and Latin neighbors.

csis.org youtube.com

U.S. capabilities in disabling defenses and capturing Maduro

The operation successfully disabled Chinese JY-27A anti-stealth radars and Russian S-300 systems through electronic warfare, jamming, and stealth aircraft like F-35s, allowing undetected entry. No Delta Force casualties were reported, highlighting precise execution. globaldefensecorp.com [+3 more](#)

Do other countries have such ability? Implications if not

No other country currently matches the U.S.'s integrated capabilities in stealth, cyber, special operations, and global power projection for such a rapid, low-casualty decapitation strike deep in hostile territory. Russia or China might attempt similar ops regionally but lack the U.S.'s expeditionary reach and tech edge. This uniqueness reinforces U.S. military dominance, potentially deterring adversaries ("pressing down" challenges) while encouraging allies to align with America for protection. It could arouse other nations to modernize militaries or seek U.S. partnerships, but risks anti-U.S. coalitions if seen as bullying. sofsupport.org lexingtoninstitute.org

[72 sources](#)



US stock market on record high, military stocks rocketed up in response to Operation Absolute Resolve.